

REMARKS

Currently claims 1-56 and 74-83 remain pending in the present application, including independent claims 1, 29, and 74. As indicated in the Office Action, claims 57-73 are withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention, pursuant to the Restriction Requirement.

In the Office Action, claims 1-56 and 74-83 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,077,590 issued to Archer, et al. in view of WO 01/85438 A2 issued to Klaubert, et al.

In general, independent claim 1 is directed toward a rolled tissue product comprising a single-ply tissue web spirally wound into a roll, and claims 29 and 74 are directed toward a rolled tissue product comprising a multi-ply tissue containing at least two plies spirally wound onto a roll.

The single-ply tissue product of claim 1 has a Kershaw roll firmness of less than about 7.8 mm. As the application points out, in the past, at the above-roll firmness levels, single-ply tissue products had a tendency to have low roll bulks and/or poor sheet softness properties. Single-ply webs made according to the present invention, however, can be produced such that the webs can maintain a roll bulk of greater than about 10 cc/g, even when spirally wound under tension. Also, the present inventors have discovered that the spirally wound base web of the present invention maintains a relatively high amount of fuzz-on-edge properties when wound, such as greater than about 1.7 mm/mm on at least one side of the web.

The multi-ply tissue products of claims 29 and 74 are also believed to possess improved properties in comparison to many conventional products. In particular, multi-ply tissue products made in accordance with the present invention possess increased roll bulk properties and increased fuzz-on-edge properties on at least one exterior side of the tissue, in combination with various other characteristics.

The Office Action points out that Archer, et al. teaches a rolled creped paper product having a roll bulk of about 13 cc/g or greater, a roll firmness of 10 mm or less, and a geometric means tensile strength of about 2,000 g/3 inches or greater. Archer, et al., Column 1, Lines 53-58. However, as admitted by the Examiner, Archer, et al. fails

to teach the fuzz-on-edge property. In fact, Archer, et al. does not disclose any means or method of obtaining the desired fuzz-on-edge property as disclosed in the present application. Further, Archer, et al. fails to disclose a multi-ply tissue sheet as required in claims 29 and 74.

In the Office Action, the Examiner cited Klaubert, et al. to add a fuzz-on-edge property to the disclosure of Archer, et al. in rejecting claims 1-56 and 74-83. In general, Klaubert, et al. discloses a process that reduces web caliper and in some cases, can dramatically reduce the caliper of the web. See Klaubert, et al., Pg. 13, lines 27-32. Klaubert, et al. teaches that reducing the caliper of the web "is beneficial in that more material can be placed upon the reel." Emphasis Added, Klaubert, et al., Pg. 13, lines 27-32. However, increasing the amount of material placed on the reel, as taught by Klaubert, et al. inherently leads to a decrease in roll bulk.

As defined in the application on page 2, roll bulk is the volume of paper divided by its mass on the wound roll. Thus, the amount of material placed on the wheel is inversely proportionate to the roll bulk of the roll. Therefore, Klaubert, et al. actually teaches a process that decreases the roll bulk of the roll.

As shown above, Archer, et al. teaches a roll of creped paper having a high roll bulk property. In stark contrast, Klaubert, et al. teaches a process that decreases the roll bulk of the roll. Thus, there is no motivation, suggestion, or incentive to combine the above references because combining the roll bulk reducing process taught by Klaubert, et al. would adversely affect the properties taught by Archer, et al. In fact, the two above references actually teach away from each other.

In addition, neither reference, either alone or in combination, teaches how to simultaneously obtain the properties of the present invention. In fact, Archer, et al. is silent as to how to increase or maintain relatively high fuzz-on-edge characteristics, while increasing roll bulk. Furthermore, the process of Klaubert, et al. actually teaches a process that reduces roll bulk. As such, Applicants do not believe that the combination of the cited references would arrive at the claimed invention.

In summary, Applicants believe that the claims as currently pending are patentably distinct over the references cited and are in complete condition for

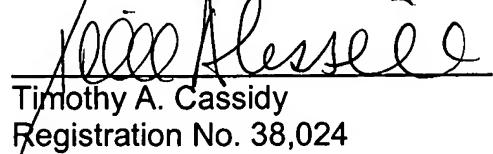
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allowance. Examiner Fortuna is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned, however, should any issues remain after consideration of this Response.

Respectfully requested,

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